



Parra Notes

September 9, 2005

I hope you all had a wonderful **Labor Day** weekend. I want to begin by reminding all of you that if you have not made a contribution to the victims of **hurricane Katrina** you can do so by going to www.redcross.com. Remember the **Red Cross** motto, "no donation is too small."

What a busy week it's been. I began my Saturday afternoon with a visit to **Safe Harbor Residential**, a medical facility for the developmentally disabled. There I met with Executive Director **Gwen Smith** and her mother **Catherine Smith** who runs **Smith Residential**. I then headed to **Wine Sellers** in **Hanford** where I met with owner **Margie Lopez** and Executive Director of **Main Street Hanford, Pamela Madell**. I had a great time meeting with all of these amazing women who gave me great insight on how their businesses impact the community. In the evening, I attended the **5th Annual Multicultural Festival** in **Hanford** where I hosted a booth and presented a certificate of recognition to the President of the Latina Women's Association, **Carol Hernandez**. Carol has been very instrumental in organizing the multicultural festival each year. I must say that I had a fabulous time seeing many of you out there. I had the best time interacting with all of the kids at the event. I know mine was one of their favorite booths to visit since I had the free balloons and coloring books☺.

On Monday, I had the great honor of attending the official grand opening of the **University of California, Merced**. Roughly 4,000 people were present to welcome the 10th University of California campus in our very own backyard. I am so proud of what this new university means and will bring to the **Central Valley**. Classes officially began this week...**GO BOBCATS!!**

LEGISLATION

On Tuesday, we began the last week of the **2005 legislative session**. My colleagues and I literally worked all day and night this week to review and vote on hundreds of pieces of legislation that came before us.

I am happy to report that **Governor Schwarzenegger** signed two of my bills into law this week. Both will officially become law on January 1, 2006.

District Offices:

Bakersfield Office:

[601 24th St., Suite A](#)
[Bakersfield, CA 93301](#)

Phone: (661) 334-3745

Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St., Suite
B

[Hanford, CA 93230](#)

Phone: (559) 585-7170

Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

[State Capitol](#)

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249

Phone: (916) 319-2030

Fax: (916) 319-2130

- **AB 520** will allow County Agriculture Commissioners (CAC) to impose fines for misuse of the “California Grown” seal. Those in violation of AB 520 will face a penalty of up to \$3,000 for the first violation and up to \$5,000 for the second and third. Previously, Agriculture Commissioners issued Notice of Violations for infractions to Food and Agriculture Codes, but carried no monetary or punitive actions. If a Notice of Action was ignored, the infraction was filed with the County District Attorney. In most cases, the violation faced no prosecution from a District Attorney or the Department of Food and Agriculture.
- **AB 1419** was my second bill signed into law this week. It will allow existing consumer finance licensees to notify the Department of Corporations (DOC) when a new branch is opened or when an existing branch is relocated without having to resubmit previously verified data. Existing law states that licensed Consumer Finance Lenders must reapply to the Department of Corporations every time they want to open a new branch. This redundant practice can take up to two months and requires lenders to resubmit information that the Department of Corporations has already verified. The re-submitted information creates duplicate work and contributes to existing backlog.

Below you will also find a brief description and status of my bills that passed through the Assembly this week.

ACR 86 ‘ICE’ In Case of Emergencies will urge all Californians to use the acronym ‘ICE’ (In Case of Emergency) when selecting individuals from their cell phone directories to be contacted in case of emergencies.

Status: Passed by the Senate. Headed to the Assembly to be chaptered.

ACR 88 California Firefighters Memorial Day will designate October 15, 2005, as California Firefighters Memorial Day and urge all Californians to remember firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty and express appreciation to those who continue to protect the state against fires.

Status: Passed by the Senate. Headed to the Assembly to be chaptered.

AB 439 Megan’s Law Conviction will clarify existing law regarding registration responsibilities. It makes it clear that an individual must continue to register even if their conviction is expunged. The bill would also require certain registered sex offenders to notify law enforcement of a change in address either in person, by registered, or certified mail.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor’s desk.

AB 490 Notice to Bid will expand the bidding pool for school district contracts by requiring that bid notices be placed in construction trade journals, giving school districts more flexibility in selecting contracts. Current law requires only the placement of notices in local newspapers.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor’s desk.

AB 649 Tomato Commission will provide that the commission shall establish an assessment for tomatoes produced inside and outside of the state and establishes a procedure to ensure the safety of fresh tomatoes.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor's desk.

AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee's identity and confidentiality when filing a complaint to avoid retaliation.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor's desk.

AB 1110 Home-to-School Transportation Block Grant will ensure that the most under-funded educational state program, home-to-school transportation, be given desperately needed funding. The bill will ensure that school transportation also be given a yearly cost of living increase. This would benefit rural school districts who have disproportionately higher transportation costs because they serve fewer students per square mile and as a result, must transport greater numbers of pupils over longer distances.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor's desk.

AB 1542 Judge Discretion on Sentencing will authorize judges to refer veterans to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration when they have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have been convicted of certain crimes.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Headed to the Governor's desk.

EVENTS

With the conclusion of our **2005 legislative session** comes the start of our **district work period**. So you guessed it, I'm moving back to the **Central Valley** until we resume the **2006 legislative session** in January. While in the district, I will be attending several meetings and events. Below you will find just a few of the events and meetings that I am scheduled to attend in September. If you are planning to attend any of these, please be sure to seek me out and say hello. Stay tuned as more events will be added next week.

September (Tentative)

- **Guns and Hoses Charity Golf Tournament Sponsored by the Bakersfield Fire Department to benefit Muscular Dystrophy** – September 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Bakersfield
- **Agri Business Kick-Off Luncheon** – September 13th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Tulare County Fairgrounds located at 2215 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Tulare, CA 93274.
- **Tour of the Fresno site for the Development of Chinatown** – September 13th 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Fresno.
- **Kingsburg Elected Officials Meeting** – September 14th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Salazar's located at 345 Sierra St. Kingsburg, CA 93631
- **Dolores Huerta Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament** – September 15th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the River Lakes Golf Course in Bakersfield

located at 5201 Riverlakes Dr. Bakersfield, CA 93312

- **Ninth Annual Graduation and Commencement Exercises of the Tulare County Adult Drug Court** - September 15th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Visalia Convention Center located at 303 East Acequia St. Visalia, CA 93291
- **Constitution and Citizenship Day** – September 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Kings River Hardwick School located at 10300 Excelsior Ave. Hardwick, CA
- **Retirement Dinner for Kings County Veterans Service Officer Ron Dicken** - September 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge located at 506 North Douty. Hanford, CA 93230
- **11th Annual “Salute to Agriculture” Banquet** - September 16th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce located at 20051 Lacey Blvd. Lemoore, CA 93245
- **Association of California School Administrators – Kings Charter Fall Conference** – September 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at West Hills College (Lemoore site) located at 555 College Ave. Lemoore, CA 93245
- **Police Activities League** – September 17th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Petroleum Club located at 5060 California Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93309
- **Kern County Annual Salute to Agriculture Dinner** –September 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kern County Fairgrounds (Park Place) in Bakersfield.
- **Corcoran Annual Cotton Festival Parade** - September 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Downtown Corcoran. The parade is set to begin on Dairy Ave.
- **2005 Hispanic Heritage Awards Banquet and Ball** – September 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn located at 9000 West Airport Dr. Visalia, CA 93277

ID THEFT COMMUNITY FORUMS

I will be hosting identity theft community forums in **Bakersfield** and **Kingsburg**. We will be discussing important information you need to know about protecting yourself from identity theft so I encourage all of you to attend. Location, times and dates can be found below.

Kingsburg – September 24th

Kingsburg Memorial Park
Corner of Sierra and 18th St.
Time 8:00 a.m. -9:30 a.m.

For more information please contact Matt Rogers at (559) 585-7170 or

Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov

Bakersfield – October 21st

The Richard Prado Senior Center

2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93305

Time: Noon – 2:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or

Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov

GUN SAFETY SEMINAR

On **October 22nd**, I will host a **Gun Safety Seminar** at **Burris Park** in **Kingsburg**. I encourage all of you to attend as we will be discussing important safety tips and new gun laws we should all be familiar with. Trigger locks will be given out for free. Burris Park is located at 6500 Clinton Ave, Kingsburg, CA 93631. For more information please contact Frank Stiger at (559) 585-7170 or at Frank.Stigers@asm.ca.gov .

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

'ICE' IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Give emergency personnel another tool in providing you with the necessary medical services by using **'ICE'**. It only takes a minute. All you have to do is enter the acronym 'ICE' with a name and phone number into your cell phone's address book of the individuals you would like to be contacted in case of an emergency.

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The first official meeting of the "California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley" will be held **Friday, September 16th** at the University of the Pacific in **Stockton** from **1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to the public so I encourage all of you to attend.

SENIOR FIELD REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

There is an opening for a Senior Field Representative position in my Bakersfield District Office. The position requires an individual who can act as official representative and liaison between the community and my office. Two to three years of management experience is recommended. Those interested can send their resume to my Chief of Staff Cynthia León by fax at 916-319-2130 or by email cynthia.leon@asm.ca.gov .

GRANTS

My office is distributing grant packages. Included in each package is information regarding, state, federal and private grants. To pick one up or have one mailed to you please contact Juan Cerda at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford** and **Bakersfield** district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a

strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For more information please contact Matt Rogers at the Hanford District Office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov. For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov

Email: Assemblymember.Para@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)